

My ransom, is this frail and worthless
trunk :
My army, but a weak and sickly guard ;
Yet, God before ⁷, tell him we will come
on,
Through France himself, and such
another neigh-
bour,
Stand in our way. There's for thy labour,
Montjoy..
Go, bid thy master well advise himself :
If we may pass, we will ; if we be
hinder'd,
We shall your tawny ground with your
red blood
Discolour⁸ : and so, Montjoy, fare you
well.
The sum of all our answer is but this :
We would not seek a battle, as we are :
Nor, as we are, we say, we will not shun
it :
So tell your master.
MONT. I shall deliver so. Thanks to
your high-
ness. *[Exit]*
MONTJOY.
GO. I hope, they will not come upon
us now.

7 — God before,] This was an expression in
that age for *God*
being my guide, or, when used to another, *God be*
thy guide. So,
in An old Dialogue between a Herdsman and a
Maiden going on
a Pilgrimage to Walsingham, the herdsman takes
his leave in
these words.

« • Now, go thy ways, and *God*
before "
To prevent was used in the same sense.
JOHNSON.

⁸ — There's for thy labour, Montjoy.
Go, bid thy master well ADVISE himself :—
We shall your TAWNY GROUND with your RED BLOOD
DISCOLOUR:] From Holinshed : "My desire is,
that none
of you be so *unadvised*, as to be the occasion that I
in my defence
shall colour and make red your tawny ground with
the effusion of
Christian blood. When he [Henry] had thus
answered the he-
rault, he gave him a greate reward, and licensed
him to depart.*

MALONE.
It appears from many ancient books that it was
always cus-
tomary to reward a herald, whether he brought
defiance or con-
gratulation.¹⁰ So, in the ancient metrical history of
The Battle of
Flodden:

" Then gave he to the herald's hand,
* Besides, with it, a rich reward;
" Who hasten'd to his native land
" To see how with his king it far'd."

STEBENS*